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TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of Tintwistle for the year 1964.

I regret that owing to a change in the classification of deaths it has not yet proved possible to provide five or ten year averages for purposes of comparison.

It will be noted from the list of causes of death that degenerative diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and cancer, were the chief causes of death at an age possibly younger than might have been expected, and that the male again takes pride of place among these "early" deaths.

As usual Mr. Skirrow's report is worthy of close study and Tintwistle should be proud of its fine record of new building and house improvement. There is still, however, a good way to travel before all are living in houses that are 100% dry and convenient in every way for living purposes. The old standards based on a minimum of structural sufficiency are giving place to new standards based on suitability for living and the day may not be so far away when "improvements" will not be enough and the problem will be the much more costly one of replacement. There can hardly be two standards of good housing - a high one for urban communities and a lower one for rural communities - and I am sure that the Tintwistle Council will face this problem as successfully in the future as they have in the past.

In a rural district it is the Public Health Inspector who carries the main burden of "public health" and I wish to thank Mr. Skirrow for the excellent work he has done, for his untiring zeal and loyal co-operation.

May I again record my thanks to you Mr. Chairman, to the members of the Council, and to the Clerk, for the unfailing interest and support you have given to all matters relating to Public Health.

Yours faithfully,

A.S. DARLING,

Medical Officer of Health

Tintwistle R.D.C.

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate for mid-1964, was 1,470.

BIRTHS

There were 26 live births during 1964. Of these 8 were males and 18 females. 81% were born in Maternity Homes or Hospitals compared with 68% for the country as a whole.

The Crude Birth Rate was 17.7 per 1,000 compared with 19.2 per 1,000 in 1963. When adjusted for comparative purposes with other areas the birth rate was 17.3 per 1,000 compared with 18.4 for England and Wales.

There were no Still Births.

DEATHS

The number of deaths during 1964 was 19. Of these 14 were males and 5 females. (See page 4)

INFANT MORTALITY

There were no deaths of infants under the age of twelve months.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred as a result of pregnancy.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following figures indicate the extent to which all types of notifiable infectious diseases occurred.

Measles.....	5
Dysentery.....	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Only one case of Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) remained on the Register on 31st December 1964.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Clinic at Christ Church School, Tintwistle, was held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. A doctor, a nurse, and members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attended each session.

Attendances were as under:-

Now Cases	Total Attendances	Average Attendances	Seen by Doctor
31(28)	687 (711)	29 (30)	107 (123)

Figures in brackets indicate the corresponding numbers in the previous year.

A Ladies Voluntary Welfare Committee provides valuable assistance to the Doctor and Nurse in attendance by the sale of infant foods, the provision of teas to mothers, and clerical duties in connection with the Clinic. In addition to the stock of proprietary infant foods maintained by this Committee the issue of National Welfare Foods is undertaken.

One member of this Committee attends the monthly meetings of the Hyde Divisional Health Committee, thus providing a very necessary link between this voluntary body and the statutory Divisional Health Committee which in effect is a Sub-Committee of the Cheshire County Health Committee.

NURSING SERVICES

The services of a Health Visitor who is also responsible for covering the Longdendale U.D.C. area are available. Her duties include the visiting in the homes of all children under the age of 5 years, attendance at Clinic sessions and the visiting of school children in need of medical supervision.

The care of the aged and infirm in their own homes forms an important part of her duties, and visits to cases of Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are carried out by this Nurse.

Cases of general sickness in the home receive nursing attention from a

District Nurse employed by the Cheshire County Council resident in Hollingworth.

For maternity cases a Domiciliary Midwife resident in Hollingworth covers the Council's area.

Each of these three nurses owns a car.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1954 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TINTWISTLE

CAUSE OF DEATH	AGE IN YEARS												
	Sex all ages		Total 4 weeks	Under 1 yr	4 wks. and under 1 yr	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Other circulatory disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	14	-	-	-	-	1	2	8	3			
	F	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2			

TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year ending 31st December 1964.

WATER SUPPLY

The position as to water supply is as described in previous reports, with the change referred to in last year's report, whereby the village of Tintwistle can be supplied from the new storage reservoir at Harrop Edge as an alternative to the supply, from Stonebrake Reservoir.

In addition to the weekly sampling carried out by the water undertakers (Manchester Corporation Waterworks). I myself submitted 9 samples to the Public Health Laboratory, results on 7 of which showed Nil counts on both Coliform bacilli and Bact.Coli (type 1) per 100 m.l. One of the remaining samples showed 1 Coliform Bacilli per 100 m.l. and Nil Bact. Coli (type 1), whilst the other sample had a count of 180+ Coliform Bacilli and Nil Bact. Coli (type 1) per 100 m.l. This last sample was taken from the Church of England Primary School, Tintwistle, an investigation of which particular supply was instigated following some apprehension voiced due to the fact that the service pipe fed from the main through the Church graveyard. Because of this Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department had for some weeks previous taken weekly samples from the school, all of which had had perfectly good results. This high count was in a sample taken at a time when there had been disturbance of the internal service pipes due to building work at the school, and in the opinion of Mr. Joseph, Chief Chemist to the Waterworks implied no unsatisfactoriness or pollution, but was due to disturbance of "after-growth" in the pipes. This was confirmed by a Nil Count from a sample from another address in the village taken on the same day, and by Nil reports on samples from the same point at the school, one taken two days before and one taken two days after the 180+ samples. Notwithstanding the evidence from these results, steps were taken to re-route the service on a more satisfactory line with a new service pipe in order to avoid any misgivings which might still exist.

Sample results over the year have thus confirmed the previously described state of the water supply, viz: as being, of satisfactory quality, chemically and bacteriologically. There is no fluoroide treatment.

The number of houses on mains supply is 545. There are no houses on stand-tap supply. The remaining 32 dwellings are on private supply largely in catchment areas under the control of the Manchester Waterwork Department.

HOUSING

Work commenced during the year on the provision of 42 further local Authority Units (32 three bedroom houses, 2 four bedroom houses, and 8 single bedroom flatlets) on land on the south side of West Drive, Tintwistle. No dwellings were completed by the end of the year, nor was there any private building.

The future of properties at Higher and Lower Square, Tintwistle, was under consideration during the year but no progress was made towards any decision. Consultation also took place as to possible improvement by conversion of two unfit houses at 94, 94a Old Road, Tintwistle, from which the tenants had been re-housed.

With the vacation of the only occupied premises in the block Nos. 114-118 Old Road, Tintwistle steps were taken to enforce the demolition under the order made by the Council on the properties.

The Council continued to implement to the full its powers of contribution towards the improvement of properties under both standard and "Discretionary" Grants. The number of houses improved by means of these grants during the year was 11 a slight decrease on last year's figure of 15, making a total of 83 properties improved since 1955. Excluding the 159 Council owned properties all of which are provided with bathroom accommodation, this means that a fifth of the dwellings in private ownerships in the whole of the district have been provided with bathroom accommodation by means

of grant contribution. Circular No. 53/64 in September, 1964 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stated that local authorities within the next 10 years should aim to ensure that all properties with a reasonable life, (that is all those properties outside demolition action categories) be provided with the five standard amenities, and as mentioned in last year's report compulsory powers have been given to local authorities to achieve this. In order to avoid the need for the invoking of these the Council will continue to encourage to the full the giving of grants, and, I take this opportunity of drawing the attention of owners of both rented and owner/occupied properties to the desirability of taking advantage of the provisions on a voluntary basis, rather than awaiting compulsory action.

Advances continued to be made both for the purchase of dwellings (particularly older properties) for owner occupancy, and also for the effecting of improvement to dwellings.

Defects were remedied or improvements made at 46 premises as a result of voluntary or informal action. No statutory notices were served.

There are no houses in multiple occupation or common lodging houses in the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES, SEWERAGE

The district is virtually 100% water carriage served, though a small number of properties are served by septic tanks. The majority of these latter are on the reservoir and catchment areas and are owned by Manchester Corporation, the effluents from the tanks being collected in a main discharge pipe laid by the Waterworks to discharge so that no risk of pollution arises in the gathering area.

Negotiations on the scheme to modernise the Sewage Works serving Tintwistle continued; details of the scheme estimated to cost £22,000 were given in last year's report. Arising from these it was confirmed that no contribution towards the cost of the work would be available from either the County Council or the Central Government, and on this basis loan sanction application was authorised by the Council.

Reports on the effluent notified by the Mersey River Board showed this to be very bad. A meeting took place with Officers of the Board and every effort was made to achieve the best results possible in the circumstances. The position was further aggravated when the only filter mechanism of the two which had previously functioned satisfactorily was damaged by vandalism over the week-end 8/10th August. Estimates for the repair being high the Council authorised the immediate renewal of the filter mechanism to both filters ahead of the main work, on the assurance that these renewals would be utilised in the new scheme. Unfortunately delivery of these parts was protracted and was still outstanding at the end of the year.

The consulting engineers were also asked to report on works which might be necessary to existing sewers and storm overflows on the system.

A small portion of defective sewer serving properties 2 to 12 Manchester Road, Tintwistle was re-laid.

At the end of the year the pond on the south side of Conduit Street was drained and the flow to same diverted to the main sewerage system. The Council had wished to effect this for some time, due to the danger to children who used the surrounding land for a play area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection is by private contract, providing for weekly service in all except the outlying Crowden and Woodhead districts where fortnightly collection is given. At the beginning of the year, the contract was again advertised for tender, resulting in a change of Contractor (Mr. E. Woodward of Hadfield) for the ensuing 3 years.

No extension was made to the paper sack system during the year, this being limited to approximately 100 Council Houses and 24 private properties. Despite the advantages in collection from this method, there has not been evidence of a general wish to expand the installation.

Tipping continued on the land on the south side of West Drive and despite the difficulties of the site due to open access, reasonable control was given. Again firing occurred and the problem was made more difficult due to the policy of the County Fire Service, which called for time-consuming investigation and authority to re-charge before appliances could attend.

RODENT CONTROL

As in previous years the whole of the sewer system was treated with Warfarin Bait in Stockinetto bags. This regular treatment ensures against any build up of infestation in the sewer system. Continuous treatment is carried out at the Sewage works and Refuse Tip. Free treatment is provided to all domestic premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Plans for improvements at the Church Inn, were approved. A complaint was received of foreign matter in a bread roll purchased in the district, though supplied by a bakery outside the district. This was dealt with by the County Weights and Measures Department who are the Food and Drugs Authority.

The County Medical Officer continued to provide a service of milk sampling by his department, which covered both raw and heat treated milk retailed within the district from services both inside and outside the district. Only one of the samples of all types was reported as failing to comply with the prescribed tests, and of the four samples of raw milk submitted for Brucella Tests none were brucella positive.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The district is not included in the list of "black areas," and no action to designate Smoke Control Areas has been taken. Further discussions took place on the question of disposal of industrial waste.

FACTORIES ACT

No action was found to be necessary in this respect, there being only one major factory within the district.

GENERAL

Work continued during the year on the conversion of the cottages at Stone Row, Crowden into a Youth Hostel, together with the building of wardens living accommodation in the form of a new bungalow. Plans were received from Manchester Corporation showing the proposed building of a permanent structure to house the sludge de-watering plant to serve the recently erected filtration plant.

